Maryland SHIP Health Action Newsletter
Friday, August 10, 2018

News: Health and Law Enforcement Partnership Sharply Reduces Illegal Tobacco Sales to Minors
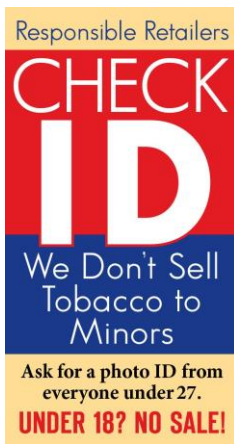
Image: Public health poster used to prevent illegal tobacco sales to minors. Text reads, "Responsible retailers check ID. We don't sell tobacco to minors. Ask for a photo ID from everyone under 27. Under 18? No sale!"

In 2016, 23 percent of adolescents in Maryland reported using any tobacco product in the last 30 days. Preventing youth from using tobacco products is critical to improving the health of all Marylanders. Anne Arundel County (AAC) tobacco retailers are getting a clear message: No sales to minors. Through increased compliance checks, sponsored by the AAC Department of Health (AACDH) and conducted by the Annapolis and Anne Arundel Police Departments and the County Sheriff's Office, the rate of illegal sales to minors has dropped significantly. The combination of customized education and targeted enforcement has produced outstanding results. In the past 12 months, 468 tobacco compliance checkers were conducted. This is a 200 percent increase over the number of checks conducted in fiscal year 2015. In the past three years, the percentage of AAC tobacco retailers cited for making illegal sales decreased from 21 percent to an all-time low of 10 percent.

The AACDH's Learn To Live Program offers a free Tobacco Sales Compliance Kit to all AAC tobacco merchants. The kit includes a training card and other educational materials to help teach merchants and their employees how to not make sales to minors.

To learn more about the Learn To Live Program and access the toolkit, click here. Learn more about the data reported above by visiting the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) website here.

Event: Public Health Informatics Conference

Image: Photograph of a tablet running a data processing program.

Monday - Thursday, Aug. 20 - 23

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host the 2018 Public Health Informatics Conference, and this year's theme is "*Connecting Systems and People to Improve Population Health.*" The purpose of this conference is to engage all public health sectors to collaboratively and comprehensively achieve better health outcomes for those they serve. Conference topic areas include:

- Information systems
- Governance
- Informatics workforce and leadership development
- Innovations and novel applications
- Informatics-based solutions to improve population health
- Laboratory informatics

For more information about this conference, click here.
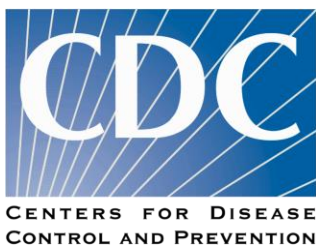
Event: Monthly Health Promotion Conference Call

Image: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo.

Thursday, Aug. 23

Each month, the CDC and the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) co-host a conference call to help public health professionals promote information on a range of public health topics to their constituents. This standing call takes place the fourth Thursday of each month. Topics vary month-to-month and are made available a few days prior to each call. Previous topics include:

- Obesity vital signs updates
- Prescription awareness campaigns
- Food safety rating system tools
- Zika guidance updates
- National Birth Defects Prevention Month resources

For additional information about this monthly call, click here.

Event: 2018 Healthy Eating in Practice Conference

Image: Young children making salads during a community center activity.

Sunday - Wednesday, Aug. 26 - 29
Healthy eating behaviors can have a lifelong positive impact on health and wellness. The Healthy Eating in Practice conference is a hands-on event for those focused on changing the culture of health care to better support health eating behaviors and prevent chronic diet-related diseases. Grounded in experiential learning, this conference will equip attendees with strategies and skills to address the root causes of chronic diseases. This conference offers practical tools and resources needed to implement healthy eating practices with patients, communities, and beyond.

For more information about this conference, click here.

Event: International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases

Image: Girl properly sneezing into elbow.

Sunday - Wednesday, Aug. 26 - 29
The CDC will soon host the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases. Speakers and sessions will focus on issues affecting the emergence, spread, and control of infectious disease. Major topics to be discussed include:

- Surveillance and outbreak response
- Public health preparedness
- Contributing factors to disease emergence and control

For more information about this conference, click here. To learn more about resources to control infectious diseases visit the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Infectious Disease Bureau website here. Find information about emergency preparedness by visiting the MDH Office of Preparedness and Response website here.

Event: Community-Driven Research Day

Image: An illustration of a network connecting groups of people.

Friday, Oct. 12
Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute will soon host the 2018 Community-Driven Research Day, and this year's theme will be, "*Fostering Innovative Research for Optimal Community Health Outcomes.*" Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss community-driven research

needs, identify potential collaborations, and learn about funding resources for collaborative research.

The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 28.

For more information about this event, click here.

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